

"Long-Term Solution to Runaway Federal Spending"

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence spoke on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today urging the Congress to adopt a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. Below is his statement:

"This is a challenging time in the life of our nation. Our economy is struggling under the failed economic policies of the recent past and under a mountain range of debt.

"We have an unchecked, spendthrift federal government that's placing a burden of insurmountable debt on our children and grandchildren.

"Washington, D.C., isn't just broke, it's broken.

"And the time has come to change the way we spend the people's money, and to do that in our national charter.

"The time has come for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"I want to take a moment to commend just a few people who brought us to this day. I want to commend Speaker Boehner and the Republican leadership for ensuring that for the first time in

15 years we would have an up or down vote in the House and Senate on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

"But I also want to commend the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman Goodlatte, who throughout those last 15 years has been as we say back home, 'like a dog with a bone,' on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. His tenacity, his commitment to this reform not singularly but predominantly has brought us to this day and I commend him from my heart.

"Our nation is sinking in a sea of debt. Just this week we passed \$15 trillion in national debt, and the American people are tired of the same old arguments. They want solutions, not slogans. They want reforms, not rhetoric.

"The Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution is an authentic, long-term solution to runaway federal spending, deficits and debt, by both political parties. And the measure we bring to the floor today is a bipartisan measure.

"It is nearly identical to the version that last passed the House with bipartisan support. It requires simply that the federal government not spend more than it takes in. It requires a three-fifths vote to raise the nation's debt ceiling and requires any increase in taxes be by a true majority roll call vote.

"Now, while I support this historic version, this bipartisan version of the Balanced Budget Amendment, I do regret it doesn't go further.

"I would prefer that we would have brought a version of the Balanced Budget Amendment to the floor that included a cap on federal spending, strict limits on the judiciary, and a higher hurdle for Congress to raise taxes on the American people.

"But while this version of the Balanced Budget Amendment doesn't have everything I want, I believe it will move the debate forward. Adding to our national charter the expectation of the American people, that this national government live within their means, that the income meet the outgo, would be a historic addition.

"So I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan version of the Balanced Budget Amendment.

"Let's send it to the Senate by the requisite supermajority. And then let's let the states decide whether the time has come to put in our national charter the requirement that this government live within the means of the American people."